

WATER COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 12, 2001
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Watkins, Chairman
Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman
Chris Cofty
Tony Parrott
Chris Venice

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Bill McNally
Jim Mallett

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray

GUESTS:

Larry Turner, PTCWASA
Troy Besseche, City of Peachtree City
John Grant, Franco Demarco, URS Corporation

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Watkins at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON AUGUST 22, 2001.

Vice Chairman Dr. Patton made a motion and Chris Venice seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 22, 2001. There was no opposition.

II. REPORT ON LAKE PEACHTREE CONTRACT.

Mr. Parrott reported that he, David Jaegar, Troy Besseche and Phil Bass went out in the boat to review Lake Peachtree on August 31. He referenced a letter from Mr. Besseche recommending Area 1 through 4 be dredged. All four of them are in the upper portion of the lake. There is some disagreement over how far up the streams and the drainage inlets the Water System is required to clean out. This was discussed between the attorneys in the past.

Mr. McNally commented that he thought this had been resolved. Mr. Besseche stated that he spoke with Rick Lindsey about this topic. It was his understanding that no final decision was ever reached. They talked about a shared cost among the residents who live along the inlets, the City and perhaps the County. He stated he did not know if this was ever finalized, in Mr. Lindsey's mind it was not.

Mr. Mallett questioned Mr. Bessche's statement in the letter about environmentally sensitive completion of the project. He asked what they had in mind. Mr. Besseche

responded that he did not think they had one specific method in mind. Rather than draining the lake and doing damage to life in the lake, they would like to see some other methods at least investigated. Mr. Mallett asked if they would like to see some actual dredging rather than what was done in 1986. Mr. Besseche said yes.

Mr. Parrott stated he would like to recommend to the Board that Mr. Mallett survey these four areas to determine how much silt is there. He has survey marks per the 1986 contract, so we can determine how much there is. Then, discuss how to remove it. There are some easier ways to take out a small amount of silt. But, if it is a large amount, earth moving is the cheaper way to do it. We will need to know how much there is to do the bid.

Mr. Parrott made this in the form of a motion, Chairman Watkins seconded and there was no opposition.

III. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ABOUT SEPTIC TANK DISPOSAL.

Mr. Mallett reported that based on Mrs. Venice's previous report of a possible 54,000 gallons per month, this amount could be land applied. Stabilize it with lime, and till it into the soil. It cannot be sprayed on the ground and left. According to the "rule of thumb" from DNR information, it takes about 40,000 gallons per year per acre. This equals about sixteen to seventeen acres of land, plus buffers. It has to be non-public access and there will be odor problems. With the buffer it would need to be about 25 acres. Another option is pretreatment. If you plant crops on it, EPD has regulations for waiting a certain number of months before harvesting the plants.

Mr. Turner explained they have looked at what it would take for them to accept it at one of their treatment plants. They feel with some pretreatment, they could take a certain volume. They are not sure what the upper limit is until they see what the effect of it is on their treatment plants. They feel they could easily handle the 17,000 septic tanks that are now in the county, if they are pumped every 5 years. If septic tanks continue to proliferate at some rate, they may exceed their capability to take it. Or if the Health Departments change to pumping the septic tank every year, that could be a problem. But, they feel, with proper pretreatment, DO with what they have today, and for the foreseeable future, they could handle it.

Mr. Turner distributed information on a Septage Receiving System that has been installed in Athens Clarke County. He feels a capital investment of about \$125,000.00 would be needed. There is no real odor problem. He explained how the system works to the Committee, what goes to the landfill and what goes into the treatment plant.

Chairman Watkins expressed appreciation to Mr. Turner for the research he has done. He asked about a fee structure. Mr. Turner replied that he still needs to meet with his Board. He stated that he feels they will want the County to fund the capital improvements, then they will set up a fee structure to charge the septic tank haulers their cost operating and treating it. He has talked with other counties that are treating it that have researched the actual cost of treating a load. The range is probably somewhere from \$150.00 to \$180.00 a load. The device has a meter and a card reader on it. A septic tank hauler would have a card, he would slide it, and this would start the unit operating. It would measure the flow that is dumped. Then he would hit the stop button. They would know who was using it, then bill them at the end of the month.

Dr. Patton asked about charging a fee to help the County recoup the cost of the improvements? Mr. Turner stated he would have no problem with adding a fee to do this.

The committee discussed the better options. Land application has many public relation problems. Other pretreatment processes were much more elaborate. This system has very little odor associated with it. The sludge would be hauled to the land fill.

Mr. Turner commented that this system has been operating in Athens about six months. Grease will have to go somewhere else. They cannot accept grease. They can only accept domestic septic tank waste and porta-potties. The flow can be controlled by a valve. It is fairly quick. The committee discussed fees charged by other counties.

Mr. Turner stated they will take a sample of every load that comes in. They will check pH to make sure it is not a load of grease. His Board meets next Tuesday and this item will be discussed at that meeting.

Chairman Watkins thanked Mr. Turner for his research and help. He directed the subcommittee to report back to the Committee in two weeks.

IV. LAKE HORTON.

Mr. Parrott reported that Alan Murray with Safe Dams did a follow up inspection on the Lake Horton Dam. He was pleased with the process we went through to take care of some of his concerns. There are still other items we need to follow up on. He plans to come back in March.

V. HIGHWAY 138 WATERLINE PROJECT.

Mr. Mallett presented a plat to show the committee the area water needs to be run to. He pointed out the various properties involved and different route options. The committee

discussed easements needed, right-of-way, size line needed, DOT requirements on Highway 138, and fire department needs. The Committee tabled this item until the next meeting.

VI. KENWOOD BRIDGE PROJECT.

Mr. Parrott explained he has a request from Public Works to move the water line on the Kenwood bridge on Morning Creek. They want to put in a guard rail and the water line is in the way. The long range plan of the County is to replace the bridge. He recommended putting the water line on a pier crossing off the bridge. It will cost a little more now, but it will not have to be moved when they replace the bridge. He suggested talking to the gas company about participating in doing a joint project with the water line and the gas line on the same pier crossing. He stated another choice is to improve the road right-of-way and put the guard rail behind the water line. But, when they redo the bridge we would have to move the water line.

Mr. Cofty stated the bridge is scheduled to be replaced in about two years.

Mr. Parrott made a motion to recommend this to the Board of Commissioners. Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded and there was no opposition.

VII. REPORT ON SOUTH FAYETTE WATER PLANT OPEN HOUSE.

Mr. Parrott stated the date had been set for October 18. He asked Committee members to let him know if they have people they would like added to the invitation list. After discussion, the committee decided to change the date due to the schedules of committee members and the Board of Commissioners retreat.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Watkins made a motion and Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of two legal items and one item of real estate.

The County Attorney briefed the Committee on two legal items and one item of real estate. On the first legal item Vice Chairman Dr. Patton made a motion for Attorney McNally to proceed in this matter. Mr. Parrott seconded and there was no opposition. No action was taken on the other two items.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:25 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 26th day of September, 2001.

Lisa Gillis